



**QCMUG Meeting Minutes  
June 16, 2009  
Bettendorf Public Library**

**Attendance**

A total of 16 members were present at the meeting. Don Patridge, Jim Hall, Keith Claussen, Dave Ochs, Dean Arney, Dale Arnold, Sue Berger, Brian Dobbins, Harry Healey, Jim Holifield, Phyllis James, Keven Ketelsen, Rosanne Krubsack, Bill Rankin, John Schenk, and Cynthia Weinberger. Our single guest was Dave Hamburg.

**Business Meeting**

- The meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm.
- The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,822.47
- The meeting room rent for the year is due. Dave Ochs has taken care of it.
- July's meeting will be a help session and swap meet. The August program will be covering eBay and presented by Connie Patridge.
- Make sure you run Software Update on your Mac. There is an important Java update to install which fixes a bad security flaw.

**Program**

Importing Analog Audio Sources into your Mac by David Baker.

*Mr. Baker is the Operations Manager for KALA radio at St. Ambrose University in Davenport. His process of importing vinyl records and tapes was used countless times to convert and archive the collection at St. Ambrose. Many albums held in their collection were never released on CD, so any vintage music you hear on KALA played today is from digital files created from analog sources.*

## David Baker's tips for transferring cassettes/vinyl to your Mac.

It's going to cost a little bit if you don't have the supplies to do this, but the reward will be to be able to listen to your old cassettes and vinyl records AGAIN!

1. You'll need a working cassette deck with a line level output. Most of them should have "LINE OUT" (left and right channels) as an option. Cassette decks are almost impossible to find now in stores, however, you can locate some reasonably at garage sales or pawn shops. I wouldn't spend more than \$20 on a deck now.
2. Some new turntables have a USB output. You're going to pay more for this feature. If you don't have USB output, but have kept that old turntable, you can use a simple audio mixer (Radio Shack and Best Buy sell these, but the price may be between \$50 - \$150 for a mixer with phono input). Otherwise, you can purchase a "phono pre-amp" for around \$20 (usually at electronic stores or available on line, even through places like Amazon.com). I believe Warren Electronics (in Moline on Avenue of the Cities) sells, or can order, phono pre-amps. They're pretty easy to work with and nice people.
3. You can't input the phono output level (which is very low) into your Mac. It has to be amplified. Once you have a line level signal, then simply use a 1/8" STEREO plug that is split on the other end for LEFT and RIGHT RCA connection. Those cords and connectors are also available at the previously mentioned electronic sellers.
4. Download Audacity (a free program). <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>
5. Hit "record" FIRST, then play back the source you want to archive. Go back, and edit out the "dead air" at the beginning and end.
6. Export to I-Tunes, and then you can listen to it, or export to another source. Label your music as you like. That's the neat part of this. You can organize these recordings as you would your I-Tunes songs.
7. It's larger, but I recommend saving everything as a WAV file or AIFF. Due to the low cost of hard drives compared to a few years ago, why not?!
8. Remember, the saved recording is only as good as the original. There are some software packages that can do some cleaning up of "clicks and pops" from records

for PC. I'm not sure what there is for Mac. Nero is one program that offers that for PC users. The downside: when you start "cleaning up" those defects, you can lose high frequency range of recordings, and the pops are never quite all gone.

9. **COPYRIGHT!** This is for your own personal use. I don't recommend or endorse you copying this material for anyone else. It's for your own personal use, as it would be if you were using an old-fashioned dual cassette deck to create a compilation of favorites. If you're like me, you might even keep the original as a collectible or proof that you had the original to begin with if there's ever a question from "big brother."

10. **Have fun, but remember this is a lot of work to divide all of these tracks up. It will be a labor of love, especially if you loved listening to your old records and tapes!**

Links:

Audacity: <http://audacity.sourceforge.net>

Numark Turntable: [www.numark.com/ttusb](http://www.numark.com/ttusb)

### **Open Forum**

There wasn't any open forum issues presented to the group.

Meeting was adjourned about 8:10 p.m.

### **Next Month's Meeting:**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 21.

*Respectfully submitted by Keith Claussen, QCMUG Secretary*

[www.QCMUG.org](http://www.QCMUG.org)